

# NAVAL HOSPITAL CAMP PENDLETON HEALTHWATCH & NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2, No. 1

*"Health in Garrison. Readiness in Deployment."*

Jan - Mar 2005

## Naval Hospital CO Selected for Star

Navy CAPT Richard R. Jeffries has been nominated for appointment to the rank of rear admiral (lower half). CAPT Jeffries is currently serving as commanding officer, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Calif. He is scheduled to transfer this summer to head the newly created Future Operations office at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Washington, D.C.

Eighteen of CAPT Jeffries' 29-year career in Navy Medicine has been spent assigned to units on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. He has had tours at the Naval Hospital three times and to Marine Corps units involving deployments with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in Operation Desert Shield/Storm in 1990 and with the I Marine Expeditionary Force to Operation Restore Hope in 1992.

CAPT Jeffries has also been stationed at Naval Hospital Pensacola, Florida; Camp Pendleton, Branch Hospital Twentynine Palms, Calif.; Marine Forces Pacific, Camp Smith, Hawaii and Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii.

His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (three awards); Bronze Star; Meritorious Service Medal (two awards) and the Combat Action Ribbon.

CAPT Jeffries is married and has two daughters.



CAPT Richard R. Jeffries

## NHCP Implements New Records Program

*Douglas W. Allen, NHCP PAO*

Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton will upgrade its medical records system to a state of the art computerized program from now until June. During this period, access for routine appointments may be decreased or delayed to ensure urgent care appointment availability.

However, no scheduled appointments will be cancelled because of this upgrade.

This new program, called the Composite Health Care System, version 2, allows all documentation of a patient's visit to be stored in the computer and allows providers to see all care completed here, and eventually,

to see care completed at other military treatment facilities as well.

"This program is being implemented DoD-wide and will improve patient care through improved medical information access," said CDR Robert Meade, Executive Director for Primary Care at NHCP.

**New Records Program - Pg. 4**

# NHCP Decon Team Protects Hospital, Base

by JO3 Dustin Q. Diaz, Staff Journalist

Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton's Decontamination Incident Response Team (DIRT) is the first line of defense against contamination and has become more diversified, according to Officer-in-Charge, LCDR Paul Barfknecht.

DIRT was established several years ago by Emergency Department staff members to decontaminate casualties before they receive treatment and to protect hospital staff and patients.

Now the team has expanded its capabilities to provide on-scene medical treatment to those casualties, as well as provide assistance to civilian and military victims anywhere on Camp Pendleton and in the surrounding communities.



U. S. Navy photo by JO3 Dustin Q. Diaz

**Washing patient—Petty Officer 2nd Class Kathleen Pierce, left, rinses a patient while Seaman Anaberta Benitez scrubs him down in Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton's Decontamination Incident Response Team's mobile high-pressure heated-water system.**

DIRT became mobile for the first time during a Base mass casualty drill in Nov. 2004. The team collaborated with Base emergency personnel, Federal Fire personnel and San Diego County Emergency Medical Services when they responded to a simulated nerve agent attack aboard the Base.

The DIRT's goals during the drill were to test its readiness in handling hazardous material-related casualties and protecting the Base from contamination.

DIRT members route casualties through a mobile shower system while wearing level "C" protective suits. The unit's high-pressure, heated water system, with mechanical scrubs and soap solution, fully decontaminates patients, according to DIRT Leading Petty Officer HM2(FMF) Todd Miller.

"In the event of an attack on the Base, our primary mission has been to protect personnel and patients through a complete decontamination process and on-scene emergency medical treatment," Miller said. "We want to ensure that the hospital stays open no matter what and isn't closed down because of contamination."

The team trains monthly and selected DIRT members also attend specialized operationally-oriented training taught by the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md.

"The training you can get and the experience you pick up by being on the team can be very valuable," Miller said, "especially in today's world and the Global War on Terrorism."

## Healthwatch & Newsletter

### Commanding Officer

CAPT R.R. Jeffries

### Executive Officer

CAPT C.A. Wilson

### Command Master Chief

HMCM(FMF/SW) R.S. Moriarity

### Public Affairs Officer

Mr. D.W. Allen

### Managing Editor

JOC(SW/AW) S.K. Robinson

Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton Healthwatch & Newsletter is an authorized official publication of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Calif., 92055. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Department of the Navy, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery or Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton. Healthwatch & Newsletter is published quarterly with appropriated funds, and is distributed at the beginning of each quarter throughout Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton and its Branch and Outlying clinics.

To speak with the editorial department, call 760-725-1271, or E-mail at [healthwatch@cpn.med.navy.mil](mailto:healthwatch@cpn.med.navy.mil).



## **Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton Marks 30 Years of Service**



The Naval Hospital Santa Margarita facility (circa 1952), adjacent to Lake O'Neill, was comprised of 86 buildings on 252 acres. The previous hospital was so spread out that medical personnel had to make their rounds using bicycles.

*JOSN Dustin Q. Diaz, Staff Journalist*

The Naval Hospital on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary Nov. 1, 2004

The anniversary celebration began at morning colors with hospital plankowners, former staff members, and previous commanding officers, command master chiefs and current hospital staff in attendance.

"This hospital has been a great investment," Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Commanding General Maj. Gen. Timothy E. Donovan said, addressing the audience. "You've taken care of our families and each other, before and after we deploy. You've been here through everything that Camp Pendleton has been through."

"It's our job to provide medical care for deploying Marines and Sailors, returning casualties, and family members so that the Marines can fight our wars," Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton Commanding Officer CAPT Richard R. Jeffries said. "That's what we have been doing for more than 60 years, and it's particularly crucial at a time like this."

The hospital has come a long way since the first days in 1946 when it was Naval Hospital Santa Margarita. Doctors, nurses and hospital corpsmen rode bicycles to make their rounds and deliveries on the massive lakeside compound.

"The improvements made since the hospital moved to this building have been very substantial," CAPT Jeffries said. "For example, back in the old facility, there was no air conditioning, and infection was much harder to control and prevent than it is now."

Following colors, Maj. Gen. Donovan and CAPT Jeffries were joined by senior plankowner Daniel Y. Shelton, Sr. and junior staff member Hospitalman Tyler Leslie in cutting the hospital's anniversary cake.

"It was really an honor to come back here and cut the cake on the hospital's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary," said Shelton, a former Sailor who worked for NHCP from January 1945 to December 1980 as a civilian employee. "I always loved working here, and the building still looks great."

Shelton's status as a plankowner means that he was working at the current hospital when it first opened.

Guests and hospital employees attended a Morale, Welfare and Recreation committee-sponsored '70s-era lunch on hospital grounds with '70s musical hits.

The land for the eight-story facility was authorized for reassignment to the Navy by the Commandant of the Marine Corps in August 1967, and construction began on the modern 90-acre facility May 13, 1971, at a total cost of \$26 million. The first patients were transferred to today's building Nov. 1, 1974.

The 123-bed facility is considered a medium-sized Naval Hospital, and now serves more than 137,000 active-duty and Reserve military, retirees and applicable family members on the largest U.S. Marine Corps base.

Some of the services available to beneficiaries today are internal, family and sports medicine, orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, ophthalmology, audiology, urology, mental health and general surgery.

"As the number of patient services we provide have increased, so has our quality patient care," CAPT Jeffries said.

## Family Medicine Oceanside Clinic Announces New Hours

The Family Medicine Oceanside Clinic changed its hours of operation effective Feb. 13. The new hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The clinic will be closed on Sundays and holidays.

The Family Medicine Oceanside Clinic is located at 2122 El Camino Real, Suite 100 in Oceanside. For more information about the change, call (760) 754-0974.

## Hospital Command Crest Celebrates 20 Years of Use

*Douglas W. Allen, NHCP PAO*

January marked the 20th anniversary of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton's command logo.

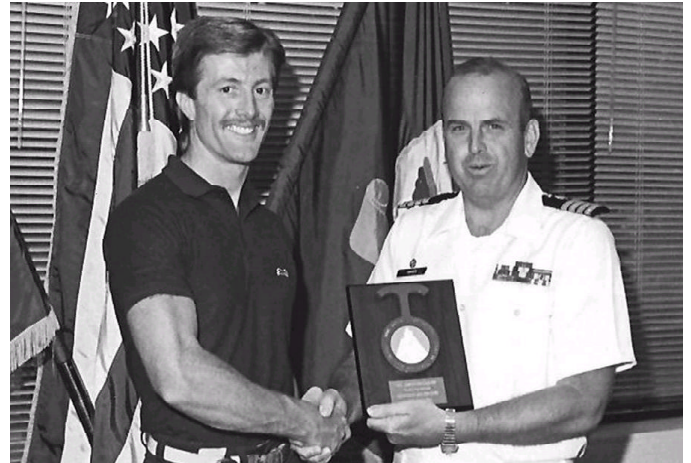
A contest was held in Dec. 1984 to design a new logo when the command changed its name from Naval Regional Medical Center Camp Pendleton.

The winner, Mr. Joseph T. Gallagher, still works at NHCP in the hospital's Support Services Department.

"I almost didn't submit an entry for the contest," Gallagher said. "The leading petty officer for the department I was working in saw me doodling on a notepad and convinced me to enter."

According to Gallagher, he asked a lieutenant what the four signal flags flying beneath the American flag meant. The lieutenant told him their meaning was, in essence, "we care." This planted the seed for the wording on the entry: "Serving Those Who Serve. We Care." Gallagher also used the O'Neill family cattle brand which serves as Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton's logo. The final logo element is a drawing of the Navy hospital corpsmen memorial created by Raul Avina located in front of the hospital.

"I'm honored to be in some way a small part of the hospital's history," Gallagher said. I'm very proud to still be a member of the best hospital in the Navy and have the privilege to serve our Marines and Sailors."



**TWENTY YEARS AGO - The command logo design contest winner, Mr. Joseph Gallagher, receives a plaque with the new hospital logo from Commanding Officer CAPT Donald F. Hagen Dec. 21, 1984. (Photo courtesy of Joseph Gallagher)**

## Hospital TSC has new hours

The TRICARE Service Center on the 6th floor at NHCP will change its hours of operation to 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. in order to better serve our beneficiaries who need to conduct TRICARE business en-route to work. This change will be in effect Monday, April 4, 2005. The hours of the TSC at the Joint Reception Center are not affected. The same services will remain available on a walk-in basis (enrollments, Primary Care Manager changes, health benefit and claims questions).

## Important TRICARE Information!

### Why is it important to keep my Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) information updated?:

DEERS is the official source for TRICARE eligibility and you must show as "eligible" in DEERS in order to receive your TRICARE benefits & correct payment of TRICARE claims. If your information is not correct in DEERS, your care may be denied and important information about your TRICARE benefits cannot reach you in the mail (i.e. Prime enrollment cards & renewal notices, PCM changes, and care authorizations). You may verify your status in DEERS by calling 1-888-TRIWEST or visiting any TRICARE Service Center. You may update your DEERS information directly at any DEERS Office or by calling 1-800-538-9552. Address changes may

### New Records Program - Pg. 1

"Military members move a lot. With CHCS II, vital medical information will eventually be accessed in any MTF at the touch of a button."

To minimize the impact on patients, implementation of CHCS II will be conducted in different clinics at varying times.

For a complete schedule of clinics and their implementation dates, please visit the hospital Web site at [www.enhcp.com](http://www.enhcp.com) or call (760) 725-1288.